

Remarks

Claims 2, 3, and 6 through 24 are pending in the application, and claims 4, 5 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 6 to 8, and 15 to 24 were objected to, but the examiner indicated in a February 1, 2007 action that those claims would be allowable if re-written into independent claim format, and amended to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 relating to the preamble of claim 25.

Claim 25 was the only independent claim in the application, and it was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite because it included the phrase “and the like” in the preamble. That phrase has been deleted in the above amended claims 6 and 15 which now include the preamble and all of the limitations of claim 25. The phrase “conductors, hoses, and the like” has been replaced by the term - - flexible members - - which adequately describes the member to be guided without adding new matter or limiting the claims in any way. It is believed that these amendments traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim 6 was re-written into independent claim format including all of the limitations of its independent claim 25 and intervening claims 4 and 5. Therefore, amended claim 6 addresses the objection and is in allowable form. Claims 7 and 8 had already depended from claim 6, and therefore are allowable without further amendment.

Claims 2, 3, 9, and 12 originally depended from independent claim 25. These claims have been amended to depend from allowable claim 6, and are now also in allowable form.

Claim 15 has been amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 25, and there were no intervening claims. Therefore, claim 15 is in allowable form. Claims 16 through 24 had already depended from claim 15 or an intervening claim, and thus no amendment to these allowable claims is necessary.

Applicant: Wehler et al.
Application No.: 10/510,595

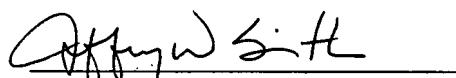
As a result of the amendments herein, all of the allowable claims have been placed in allowable form by incorporating all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and intervening claims. Claims that had been rejected have been amended to depend from allowable claims, and are now themselves in allowable claim format.

Finally, the specification was amended in Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated October 7, 2004 and the amendments are included herewith for the examiner's review. These amendments address the examiner's objections, which are believed to be traversed. Also, on page 1 of the specification, a German reference had a typographical error in its publication number that has been corrected herein. No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments, and the claims remain supported by the specification.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffry W. Smith, Reg. No. 33455
Attorney for Applicant
SMITH LAW OFFICE
440 Science Drive, Suite 302
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 663-8200